

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

June 13, 2006

Ms. Marion C. Blakey, Administrator
U.S. Department of Transportation
Federal Aviation Administration
800 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, DC 20591

Dear Administrator Blakey:

We are writing to express our concern about recent actions taken by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) and some of its regional offices that are jeopardizing the development of critical wind projects throughout the United States. Urgent attention is needed to address this problem and ensure that efforts to increase our nation's use of clean, renewable sources of energy are not delayed.

As you know, Senator John Warner (R-VA) added a provision to the FY06 National Defense Authorization Act that required the Department of Defense (DOD) to study and report on the effects of wind projects on military readiness. The report was due no later than 120 days after the bill's enactment on January 6, 2006, but has not been submitted to Congress yet. Meanwhile, the DOD and the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) issued an interim policy "...to contest any establishment of windmill farms within radar line of site of the National Air Defense and Homeland Security Radars" until the study is completed.

Since the interim policy was put forth by DOD and DHS, the FAA has issued several "Notices of Presumed Hazard" to wind projects located in Midwest States - thus stopping them in their tracks. For example, wind projects in Illinois totaling 950 megawatts, 570 megawatts in Wisconsin, and approximately 200 megawatts each in Minnesota, South Dakota and North Dakota, have all come to a halt because of the notices from FAA. These are expensive projects that will contribute a significant number of megawatts to our electric grid and we are very concerned that they - and others - will be delayed or derailed if the FAA continues to issue Notices of Presumed Hazard as a result of the interim policy.

We certainly recognize and respect the paramount importance of any concern relating to national security, but we also believe there is a need to increase our nation's energy security through the development of renewable resources, like wind power. Several states have recently adopted measures that will encourage the use of more wind energy by adopting renewable portfolio standards, which require a certain percentage of the state's electricity to be derived from renewable sources. President Bush also recently recognized the value of wind energy to our nation's future, noting that it could ultimately contribute 20% of the U.S. electricity supply.

It is our understanding that no U.S. wind project has ever been cancelled solely because of its impact on civilian or military radar systems. Historically, the FAA has worked closely with DOD and the project developers to determine what mitigation measures can be utilized and will be most effective in reducing any radar interference. We believe that current wind projects that have received - or could receive - Notices of Presumed Hazard should continue to work in good faith with the DOD and DHS and that the FAA should not impose a de facto moratorium on

these projects without giving them an opportunity to mitigate any problems in a cooperative fashion.

In closing, it is clear that we are at a critical juncture in our nation's energy future and that we should be encouraging the development of clean, renewable sources of energy – not adding obstacles that will delay or derail them. We urge you to direct the regional offices to continue working with the DOD and project developers to mitigate any potential problems, rather than issuing notices that simply block them. We thank you in advance for taking action to help these important projects move forward and we look forward to a prompt response to our request.

Sincerely,



Rep. Ron Kind



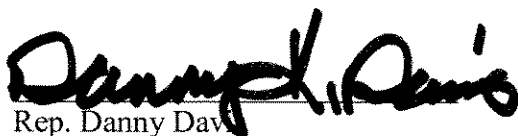
Rep. Tammy Baldwin



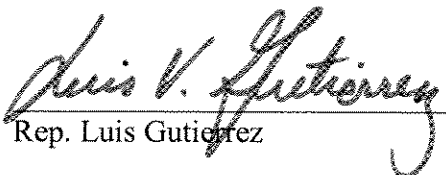
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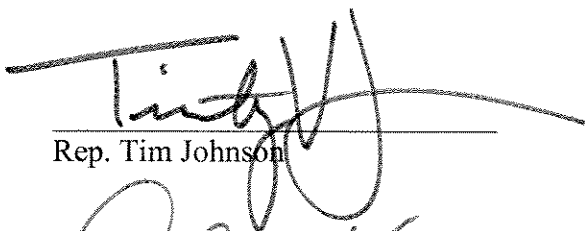
Rep. Luis Gutierrez



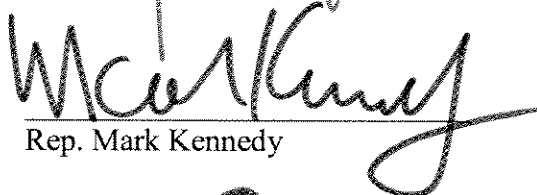
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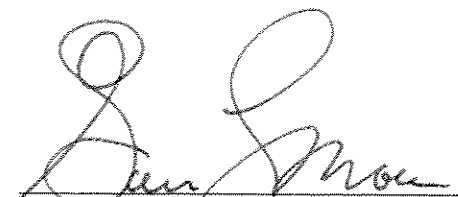


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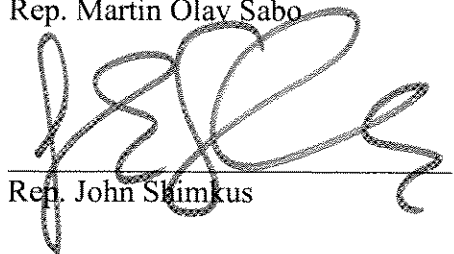

Rep. Gwen Moore

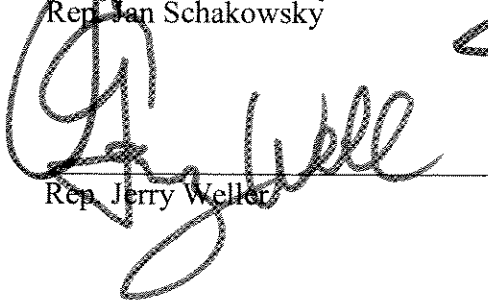

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